**Urban slums in Bihar**

†2158. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the number of slums has increased manifold in the urban area of Bihar during the last decade;

(b) if so, whether Government has conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to prevent increasing trend of slums in the State; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to provide amenities in slums of the State with the assistance of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Slum Development being a State subject, State Governments survey and take stock of slums in their respective States. However, the Town and Country Planning Organisation (TCPO) conducted a one time study on slums in 1995-96 and brought out a report titled "a Compendium on Indian Slums-1996". According to this report, the estimated slum population of Bihar (including Jharkhand) in 1991 was 26.9 lakh and estimated to be 35.44 lakhs in 2001.

An attempt was made for the first time during the Census of India, 2001 by the Registrar General of India to collect detailed data about slum population of the country but only in cities/towns having 50,000 population or more based on 1991 Census. As per the provisional figures of Census of India, the total provisional slum population of Bihar is 5.07 lakh.

(d) and (e) With a view to ameliorate the living conditions of the slum dwellers a programme known as National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) was launched at the National level by the Government in August, 1996 for the development of urban slums, Funds under NSDP are allocated as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to various States on the basis *of pro-rata slum* population.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Besides, a new scheme called Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) has been launched by the Government during the year 2001 - 02 with the purpose to provide shelter or upgrade the existing shelter for people living below the poverty line in urban slums, towards the goal of slumless cities with a healthy and enabling urban environment. The scheme also has a component known as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan for the community toilets.

**Declaring Ahmedabad a Metro City**

†2159. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state whether his Ministry has any plan to declare Ahmedabad a "metro city"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): No, sir.

**Schemes for Houseless urban poor in Orissa**

2160. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sponsored any schemes for the urban shelterless people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such scheme has been launched in Orissa; and

(d) the other States where such schemes have been launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b)Yes, Sir. The Centrally sponsored scheme of "Night Shelter and Sanitation Facilities for the Footpath Dwellers in Urban Areas" is in operation since 1988-89. The scheme is a demand driven scheme and implementation of the scheme is done by the State Government or local municipal bodies or State sponsored agencies. The scheme was reviewed in October, 2002 and has been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.